



STATE SENATOR  
**CARLO LEONE**

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Over the last eight years, the global recession and structural shift in our economy has led to uncertainty for families, businesses and state and local governments. While we still face some challenges, and there is more work for us to do, good things are happening in Connecticut.

**GROWING JOBS IN THE NEW ECONOMY**

Recognizing the structural shift in our national and state economy, we have worked for several years to foster job growth by partnering with local businesses and providing them the support they need to stay and expand in our community:



- As **Synchrony Bank of Stamford** became an independent company, Connecticut stepped in with financial support to help the transition and keep jobs here;
- When **Vineyard Vines** needed to grow their headquarters in Stamford, the state worked with the clothing retailer, keeping 180 local jobs with 200 more to come over the next five years;
- After moving its headquarters to Stamford in 2012, **Charter Communications** is now expanding its footprint in the city and adding more jobs;
- **Jackson Laboratory's new facility** has already created 200 jobs in its first year and is helping Connecticut lead the biomedical research field;
- After attracting the headquarters of **Starwood Hotels & Resorts** from New York to Stamford in 2012, the company is now expanding thanks to Connecticut's support, and will soon have 1,300 employees;
- After a lot of planning and work, **UConn Stamford** is now moving forward with dorms in Stamford, helping build up our downtown and investing in this important educational institution.

**Investing and Supporting Small Businesses**

It is also critical that we continue to support and grow small businesses beyond the STEM sector. We are continuing to invest in the Small Business Express program:

- **Providing loans, grants and operating capital to over 1,400 small businesses;**
- **Helped retain and create over 19,000 jobs in our state since 2012.**

Smart investments, and investments in our next-generation workforce and the industries of the future, will continue to be our focus as we move Connecticut's economy forward.



**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DECD)**

Looking to start or expand a current business?  
Contact DECD to see how they can help.

**Office of Business Development:** 860-270-8036  
**Office of Small Business Affairs:** 860-270-8215  
[www.ct.gov/ecd](http://www.ct.gov/ecd)

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Connecticut's Subsidized Training and Employment Program (STEP-Up)**  
860-263-6000  
[www.stepct.com](http://www.stepct.com)





# Good Things Are Happening in Connecticut

While more work needs to be done, we are making progress. Our economy continues to grow and create jobs:

- **Our unemployment rates are at their lowest levels since 2008** and our drop in unemployment in 2015 was the sixth-largest in the United States—we have regained all of the private sector jobs we lost during the Great Recession;
- **Our manufacturing sector is growing** and has experienced a five percent increase in annual output over the last two years;
- **Connecticut was recently ranked fifth in the nation for innovation** by Bloomberg News, which can be seen locally in the great work being done at the Stamford Innovation Center; and
- **Connecticut has the greatest number of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters** on a per capita basis in the U.S with three companies—Charter Communications, Cigna and Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide—relocating here in just the last five years.

FROM YOUR STATE SENATOR  
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Senator Leone speaks with Bruce Moore Sr., president of Eastern Land Management, Inc. The company has recently benefitted from the state's Small Business Express Program, an initiative aimed at helping Connecticut's small businesses to grow and hire new employees.

## UPDATE ON JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

From State Senator Carlo Leone